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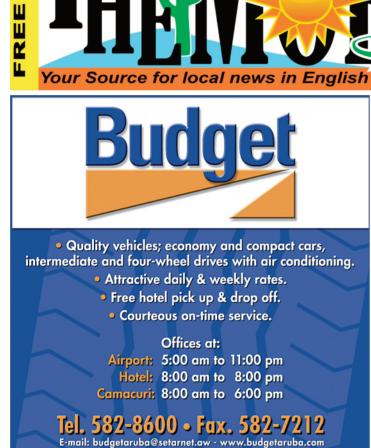
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Wednesday, August 8, 2012

THE SINGNEWS



US weather experts: Ernesto upgraded to hurricane

"AN INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED BUDGET SYSTEM LICENSEE"

MIAMI (AFP) - Ernesto became the second hurricane of the Atlantic season yesterday as it moved toward the Yucatan Peninsula with 80 milean-hour (130 kilometer-an-hour) winds, the National Hurricane Center said.

"Air Force hurricane hunters find that Ernesto has become a hurricane," the Miami, Florida-based center said.

The weather center rated Ernesto as a category one hurricane on the five-point Saffir-Simpson scale.

However, forecasters said Ernesto could strengthen further before it makes landfall on Central America's Yucatan Peninsula, where the summer tourist season is in full force.

Hurricane warnings were in place along the entire coast of Belize and up the east coast of the Yucatan in Mexico as far as the tourist resorts of Cancun and Cozumel.

The center of the storm remained near Honduras' coastline, where authorities have ordered some evacuations, but residents contacted by AFP said rains had not been excessive and rivers were flowing normally.

The storm, which began drenching Caribbean countries last Thursday, was expected to reach the Yucatan coast by early today, bringing high winds and heavy rain.

This is the second hurricane, and the fifth tropical depression, in the Atlantic Ocean since the season began on June 1.

Chris, which strengthened to hurricane force on June 21, stayed far off land, and vanished without causing any damage.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (or NOAA) has forecast a "less active season, compared to recent years."

Aruba to host first Dutch Caribbean Congress on Drug Abuse in September



Seated I.-r., Richenel Stamper, Minister Visser and Jan v d Straten; standing, addication foundation personnel

Yesterday afternoon Aruba's Minister of Public Health and Sport, Dr. Richard Visser announced a three-day Drug Abuse Congress 2012 will be conducted at the Westin Aruba Resort Wednesday, Thursday and Friday September 26, 27 and 28.

The congress will host some of the most respected professionals in the field from Holland and the Dutch Caribbean, with over 300 delegates from all six islands attending. The congress is a program of lectures and intensive interactive training combined with networking to improve the quality of care and effectiveness of drug rehabilitation programs throughout the region.

Delegates and speakers from one of the largest drug treatment networks, Parnassia Bavo Group, are collaborating on this groundbreaking event. Psychiatric groups from the Netherlands and Dutch Caribbean will be present and the Fundacion pa Maneho di Addicion Aruba, FMAA, is the Aruba partner. The latter is the



umbrella foundation organizing and uniting all the individual island foundations

working with addicts.

Assisting in the organization of the congress are chairpersons Paula Nahr of the Switch Foundation Aruba, and Willem van der Zeel. Richenel Stamper is handling P/R, and Jan van der Straten, coordinator of the FMAA reorganization on Aruba will address the audience on "Past, Present and Future: New Direction of Addiction Care in Aruba."

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Beautification of the main street has Oil product prices begun in earnest

With a December completion date



The 'streetscape' project for the Oranjestad main street, which includes its beautification with trees, benches under shades, kiosks, street tiles, water fountain and much more, was formally signed on Monday morning at City Hall. Present for the occasion were Minister Sevinger of In-

frastructure, Otmar Oduber sitting in for the Minister of Finance, executives of FDA. President Edwin Roos and members of the Board of FDA, Director of Public Works Jossy Figaroa, and engineers of DOW. And, of course Mantbraca Corporation, the contractor who won

the public tender bid for this project, was present for the signing

Minister Sevinger remarked during the singing that..."today we are taking an other important step. The transformation of the main street is about to begin and will be in the benefit of the people of Aruba." Sevinger explained that they have been working on the design and implementation of this project for the past two years and it is programmed to be completed in the month of De-

According to Sevinger, the project may not be delayed. The focus and explicit goal is to have it finished in December. This, he explained does not mean that the entire project for Oranjestad will be completed by December.

Continued on page 4

rises today

ORANJESTAD The Ministry of Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs announces to the general public that as of today, Wednesday, April 11, 2012, there will be changes in different oil product prices.



The new price for unleaded-premium gas will be 228.7 cent per liter, an increase of 5.1 cent per liter

The new price for diesel LS will be 203.2 cent per liter, an increase of 11.6 cent per liter.

The new price for kerosin will be 196.6 cent per liter, an increase of 10.6 cent

In the new prices the BBO is already included.

Skepticism at Obama plea for 'soul searching' on guns

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Despite a rash of mass killings, many Americans are skeptical of calls by President Barack Obama and others for "soul searching" on ways to reduce gun violence in the United States.

"Americans are not ready for soul searching about guns," Jeffrey Reiman, a philosophy professor at American University in Washington, told AFP in the wake of Sunday's bloodshed at a Sikh temple in Wis-

"Americans have made up their minds about guns," he said. "A large number of people seem to want them," with 258 million firearms in the United States held in private hands.

On Monday, a day after the Wisconsin shooting, Obama extended condolences to the families of the dead, then proposed that "soul searching" was needed on how to reduce violence in America.

"These terrible, tragic events are happening with too much regularity" not to prompt "soul searching" to assess "additional ways that we can reduce violence," he said.

His suggestion was timely.

On July 20, a gunman burst into a midnight showing of the latest Batman movie in Aurora, Colorado, killing 12 people. Then came Sunday's death of six worshippers at the Sikh temple in Oak Creek, Wiscon-

Continued on page 7





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After a victorious trip abroad, S.V. RCA pays Minister of Sports Dr. Richard Visser a visit



Aruba is growing in sports abroad, demonstrating that we have a lot of potential athletes on the island.

More than 30 young athletes of S.V. RCA recently visited Florida, USA where they participated at the ESPN Youth Soccer Disney Cup. The delegation consisted of 120 persons, where the selection of U10, U11 and U13 competed against teams from different countries, such as Brazil, Canada, Florida,

Costa Rica and Colombia.

It must be mentioned that it was not only RCA who participated but also the board of La Fama, Britania and Washington cooperated to get the players to participate at the championship.

Minister of Health and Sports, dr. Richard Visser, was very impressed with the union between the different organi- zations, with as goal working towards the welfare of our children and sports in



general. This demon strates a big sports spirit and shares a positive message with our children.

Sport is an instrument which can be used not only for the competitive spirit development but also to stimulate and demonstrate that union gives strength.

Last Friday dr. Richard Visser received a pleasant visit from the team. The U10 and U13

teams won bronze medals. Present at the gathering was also G'leen Schwengle of the RCA ladies

team who was a guest player for St. Pierce Hudson Hawks of Montreal Canada, whom won silver at this same tourney.

Minister Visser thanked the coaches



Schwengle of the RCA ladies Minister Visser with G'leen Schwengle

Rafa, John, Veron, Marco, Gio Sawasky and Wilfred and expressed words of appreciation to all the parents who made a big effort in fundraising, to make this trip possible.



Beautification of the main street ...

Continued from page 2



There are many other projects in the pipeline, such as the Havenstraat, Schelpstraat and the adjacent streets, a Welcome Plaza in front of the Wharf and various other projects are in the planning. Slowly each project will be realized in the ensuing months and years. The beautification of the main street is what is taking place now. Oranjestad will continue to grow and will continue to be developed with respect to its infrastructure. Likewise, in San Nicolas, there are a number of projects being worked on, and there are more to come. Aruba as a whole is

going through many big and positive changes with respect to our infrastructure.

Minister Sevinger congratulated FDA, DOW, the Infrateam, Mantbraca Corporation and all those who contributed to the project. In his closing remarks, he singled out Mr. Cay Profeet, whom he said should be especially congratulated and thanked because Profeet has been working for the past ten years on blueprints for the beautification of the city center. That work of labor has now begun in earnest and soon the changes will be visible to all to enjoy.



Pointers to Ponder

Tony A.D. Green

www.people-self-development.com

Thirteen signs your relationship is in deep trouble - Part II

Those who have come to me for marriage counseling know that I am not an advocate of divorce. As a matter of fact, from the very first encounter, I let the couple know that I will be working with them on the premise of healing their relationship and not on getting a divorce. I let them know that if they are not intending to work with me on healing, then they should find another psychologist!

This article today is a continuation of the article I wrote in one of last week's editions of The Morning News. I know it took a while for me to get back to finishing the article. Today, I will give you the rest of the 13 tell-tale signs that your marriage/relationship is in deep trouble and on the verge of a divorce. The list of signs presented here is intended to help couples who sense that things are not right in their relationship and to recognize the signs so they can do something to remedy the situation before it escalate. Research has indicated to us the specific "danger signals" that point to a serious break up in a marriage. Knowing these "danger signals" early enough and eliminating them is key to permanency in a relationship. Let me give you the other 6 universal signs that you can know that you're headed for divorce...unless you do the work to avoid it:

8. Disproportion

Marriage must include sincere efforts to fulfill your partner's needs while at the same time meeting your own needs. There can be no disproportion in this matter. In other words, it is not so that only one partner fulfills his needs to the oblivion of the other. There must always be a healthy balance, a give and take, if you please. This requires constant communication. The moment one partner stops listening to the other's needs or refuses to share his own needs...that are a big red flag that the marriage may be on the skids!

9. Devious Cheater

Most couples can recover from an affair. All can recover from a one-night stand. Obviously there will be many



regrets, tears, apologies and the promise to end whatever happened and never repeat the incident. Some even go for counseling to effectively work through the hurt. However, in the case of a spouse who is a devious cheater, or if you will, we can call him/her a serial cheater; you know that there will be no healing in such a relationship. There will only be the perpetual reoccurrence of another cheating episode. In such a relationship, there will be the inevitable end.

10. Doing the Blame Game

Research indicates that some men are just not suited for marriage. Some men, are simply not able to remain monogamous....have only one woman. This, according to the research, is so, even when these men make the decision to get married. After the marriage and as soon as they begin their flings, they would blame their spouse for every cheating episode they have. They blame their spouse for being too jealous or for being too controlling, or for being too cold or unresponsive. If this is your experience, multiple cheating affairs....the marriage is on the rocks!

11. Disagreement about

If before a marriage, one spouse cannot make a commitment about whether or not to have children; you may be able to work through that. But if you cannot settle that matter, and having a child is the goal of the other partner...prepare for the very worst in that marriage. The non committed spouse may be long gone before the child can walk!

12. Daily Talking

Conversation in friendship keeps the friendship alive and growing. Likewise, no marriage can stay alive and grow without open conversation. Couples need to talk to each other daily! But, if your talk goes as far as who needs to buy bread, or who's turn is it to throw out the trash, or what shirt do you want ironed tonight....that's a tell-tale sign the marriage is in deep trouble! When there is no intimate exchange in a marriage...you need help to save the relationship!

13. Down on Sex

Many couples have gotten married just for sex! Unfortunately, they discover very soon that sex is not all that matters. While sex is an important ingredient in a happy relationship, it is not the only essential. On the other hand, where sex is neglected or put down, the relationship loses its unction and soon the fire begins to dim. If one partner consistently refuses lovemaking, for whatever reason, this is a tell-tale sign that something is seriously wrong and that you need help or else the marriage will deteriorate!

Do Something Quick!

If any of the above or any of the pointers in the previous article apply to your situation...your marriage/relationship needs help. You can consult your church pastor, a wise house doctor, or a trained psychologist or counselor, who would provide helpful guidance and advise to help you work through the situation successfully.

Let me know if this article was helpful in any way: tonygreen.morningnews@h otmail.com.

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Aruba to host first Dutch Caribbean Congress...

Continued frompage 1



Minister Dr. Visser and Jap Beaujon, Vice-President of the Aruba National Drug Council will officially opening the congress on Wednesday morning, September 26, at 9:00 AM.

Speakers for the first morning will be Audrey Lacle, Chairperson of Adopt and Addict Foundation, Dr. Erik Jansen, Director of the Health and Addiction Psychiatry Foundation of the Dutch Caribbean, Dr. Cecile Gijsbers van Wijk of the Mental Health Board South Holland, Dr. Ing. Herbert Diaz, Coordinator Social Research, University of Aruba, and Frans Koopmans, an expert from De Hoop in Holland.

Afternoons will be interactive workshops. The first night, the general public is invited to

a special program beginning at 8:00 PM featuring Dr. J.A. Walberg, CEO of Trimbos Institute Utrecht. The topic will be "A Strong Mind-Co-Creating a Program for Resistance in Youth." Jan van der Straten urged all parents, teachers and community center personnel to attend the first evening's lecture, so they may all join together to provide guidance to island youth to be smart and strong willed about addiction to controlled substances.

A full roster of all guest speakers and the congress schedule can be found at their website: http://www.congresverslavingaruba2012.com, including registration forms and information.

by Rosalie Klein

Flawless reception of Aruban students in Holland

SCHIPHOL -- Some 250 Aruban students recently headed to Holland to continue their advanced education. Last week they were all received without any problem whatsoever. They had a flawless reception by those awaiting their arrival in Holland.

According to Samuel Dumfries, head of the department of education of Aruba House, his report from the various mentors indicate that everything went well without incident.

For students who may not have made concrete arrangements for their lodging, the department stood ready to assist with the process and to solve the problem. Everything was meticulously prepared and arranged from the moment of their arrival at Schiphol. The arrangements included a bus for transportation up to the reception program. The student was made to feel at home from the moment of his arrival.

According to Dumfries, the initial reception and the guidance are extremely important. He reported that in the past they had much trouble with the health insurance for students. They have worked diligently

on solving that problem, which is now a thing of the past. Everything depends on excellent preparation and communication, says Dumfries.

Because of the excellent communication between them in Holland and the Department of Education here in Aruba, everything could have transpired smoothly and efficiently.

Dumfries had much praise for the excellent cooperation and support received from his department consisting of the following persons: Ivonne Navas, Rosalinda Croes and Magdalena Dirkz. Also, from the mentors and the POC's, the reception committee in the different cities.

The POC are a group of volunteers, students already residing in Holland for some years. During the first season, the POC spends a lot of time with the new group of students. They guide the new students through the process of registering at the Census Bureau, school registration and familiarization with the schools, the purchase of furniture for their rooms, teach them how the busses run, etc.



Samuel Dumfries

They have a very important role. The quicker the student finds his way, the sooner he can devote himself to his studies.

According to the organizers, their primary goal is to ensure that each student achieve their educational goal. They consider students who go to Holland to study as the cream of the crop of Aruban young people; hence every effort must be made to make their transition as easy and efficiently as possible.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Tucson shooter of US lawmaker pleads guilty

TUCSON (AFP) - Disturbed gunman Jared Lee Loughner pled yesterday guilty to carrying out the deadly Arizona mass shooting in January 2011 that was a failed attempt to assassinate US Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords.

Six people were killed and 13 injured, including the congresswoman.

By pleading guilty, the 23-year-old will avoid the death penalty but will face a life sentence without the possibility of parole, the prosecution explained during the hearing at a federal court in Tucson.

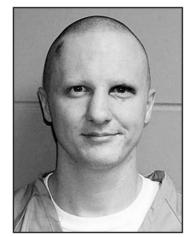
Loughner also waived all right to appeal.

The defendant appeared calm and showed little emotion as he answered the judges questions.

"Yes, it is" true, he told the judge, confirming that he approached Congresswoman Giffords intending to kill her.

Loughner's lawyer, Judy Clark, said her client was agreeing to plead guilty "knowingly, voluntarily, and intelligently."

A few minutes earlier, Fed-



eral Judge Larry Burns had declared the defendant mentally competent to understand and admit to the charges against him.

Loughner has been receiving psychiatric treatment for more than a year for schizophrenia on the court's orders. He had previously pled not guilty, but Judge Burns decided at the time he was not competent to stand trial.

Loughner opened fire on January 8, 2011, outside a Tucson supermarket where Giffords, a Democrat, was meeting with constituents.

US has no information on Iranian hostages in Syria

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States said yesterday it had no knowledge of the whereabouts of 48 Iranians kidnapped in Syria three days ago, after Tehran said it was holding Washington responsible for their fate.

"At this point, we're still following the reports closely, monitoring the situation. We can not confirm the identity of those reportedly kidnapped," State Department acting deputy spokesman Patrick Ventrell said.

"We don't have... information about who these people are, where they are," he told journalists, amid reports from Syria that three of the hostages had been killed in fierce shelling by the Syrian army in Damascus.

Ventrell confirmed that Iran had called in the charge d'affaires of the Swiss embassy in Tehran that handles US interests in the absence of any Iran-US diplomatic ties to discuss the issue.

He refused to detail what was in the message from the Iranians, but he said it "doesn't seem to make sense" that Iran was holding the United States responsible for the safety of the group.

The Iranians were taken hostage on Saturday as they traveled by bus to the airport in Damascus. It was the single biggest abduction of Iranians since the start of the Syrian uprising in March last year.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian quoted the Iranian letter to the US as saying: "Because of the United States' manifest support of terrorist groups and the dispatch of weapons to Syria, the United States is responsible for the lives of the 48 Iranian pilgrims abducted in Damascus."

He told the official IRNA news agency that "we expect the countries that are in a way responsible for the events in Syria to take the necessary measures to ensure the safety and lives of the Iranian pil-

grims and their return to Iran."

Iran's message was issued after a Syrian rebel group, Al-Baraa Brigade of the Free Syrian Army, claimed on its Facebook page that "three of the Iranian prisoners were killed in fierce shelling" by the army in Damascus on Monday.

The page said the group's leader, Abdel Nasser Shmeir, was threatening to "execute the prisoners who are proven members of the Revolutionary Guard if the shelling continues."

Tehran has insisted the 48 people were pilgrims, not Revolutionary Guards as the rebels have claimed.

Ventrell added: "The message that... we have been very clear about, is that we call on anyone holding prisoners in this conflict to treat them humanely, in accordance with international law."

Police: Armed US man arrested at Batman screening

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US authorities said yesterday they arrested a man at a screening of the latest Batman movie with a bag full of weapons in a case that evoked a recent rampage in Colorado that claimed a dozen lives.

Police in Westlake, Ohio, said an off-duty officer arrested Scott Smith, 37, late Saturday at a local cinema after he was found to be carrying a bag with a loaded Glock pistol, two extra fully-loaded magazines and three

nives.

He was also in possession of another knife, police said in a statement. Smith was the only person in the theater at the time.

A subsequent search of Smith's home also turned up "numerous weapons and ammunition," according to police.

Twelve people were killed and 58 others wounded when a gunman opened fire during a midnight premiere of "The Dark Knight Rises" in Aurora, Colorado, on July 20, a mas-

sacre which overshadowed the action movie's launch.

Prosecutors are due to review the case to decide how to charge Smith, who hails from North Ridgeville, Ohio, in the American Midwest.

Last month US police in the state of Maryland, near the capital Washington, arrested another man and seized an arsenal of weapons after he threatened his employer and raised fears he was inspired by the Colorado shooting.



CHINA, Zhoushan: Chinese rescuers help evacuate residents from their homes in Zhoushan, east China's Zhejiang province on August 7, 2012, ahead of Typhoon Haikui. China evacuated 200,000 people from Shanghai as Typhoon Haikui was expected to make landfall in Zhejiang province, just south of the city, late August 7 or early August 8, making it the third typhoon in a week to bore down on the east coast, warning it could be the most powerful storm to hit since 2005. (AFP PHOTO)

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

US names key Belize aides of Mexico druglord Guzman

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States yesterday named three Belize men as key middlemen in the central America drug trade, saying they helped funnel Colombian drugs to Mexico's Sinaloa cartel.

The US Treasury said John Zabaneh, his nephew Dion Zabaneh and Daniel Moreno were important associates of Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, the head of the Sinaloa cartel, and that the senior Zabaneh had been playing an important role in trafficking in the region since the 1980s.

"John Zabaneh's drug trafficking activities and his organization's ties to Colombian sources of supply and Mexican buyers make him a critical figure in the narcotics trade," said Adam Szubin, director of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control.

The Treasury said US individuals and firms were now banned from doing business with any of the three, and with five Belize companies they control, including a pharmaceuticals business, a banana plantation and a resort company.

The US has been mounting a sanctions offensive against drug traffickers in Central and South America aimed at cutting their access off to the global banking and finance system.

Skepticism at Obama plea for 'soul searching' ...

Continued from page 2

By coincidence, the young man accused of killing six people in Tucson, Arizona -- in a parking-lot rampage that wounded then-congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords -- was to appear in court yesterday.

Memories of the Virginia Tech and Columbine high school shootings, which left 32 and 12 dead in 2007 and 1999, respectively, remain fresh in American minds.

Each incident revives a divisive debate on gun control and the Second Amendment of the Constitution, which asserts every citizen's right "to keep and bear arms."

"Soul-searching won't stop

mass killers, and soul-searching won't stop the NRA," said law professor Adam Winkler of the University of California in Los Angeles, referring to the powerful gun lobby, the National Rifle Association.

"We don't need soul searching. We need better gun laws," he told AFP.

"Firearms are here to stay, but we can put in place better safeguards, like background checks for every gun purchase," he added.

"While such laws won't prevent madmen from killing a lot of people, they can reduce the daily gun violence that plagues America's cities."

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Assad vows to crush Syria rebellion

DAMASCUS(AFP) - President Bashar al-Assad vowed yesterday to crush the 17-month rebellion against his regime and to cleanse Syria of "terrorists," as his troops engaged rebels in key battle-ground city Aleppo.

"The Syrian people and their government are determined to purge the country of terrorists and to fight the terrorists without respite," he was quoted by state news agency SANA as telling visiting senior Iranian envoy Saeed Jalili.

Assad had earlier appeared on television for the first time in more than two weeks in a meeting with Jalili, a top aide to Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Jalili offered Assad his country's backing, saying Tehran would "never allow the resistance axis -- of which Syria is an essential pillar -- to break.

"What is happening in Syria is not an internal issue but a conflict between the axis of resistance on the one hand, and the regional and global enemies of this axis on the other," he added.

Iran has accused Turkey and Gulf Arab countries of arming the Syrian opposition in collusion with the United States and Israel, to overthrow the Assad regime.

Assad said his country was "able to defeat foreign plans targeting the resistance axis and Syria's role in it."

Tehran also sent its foreign minister to Ankara and a letter to Washington holding them responsible for the fate of 48 kidnapped Iranians.

In Aleppo, clashes rocked



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A Free Syrian Army fighter takes cover during clashes with Syrian Army in the Salaheddine neighbourhood of central Aleppo.

several central areas of the city while the army also shelled rebel-held areas in the east, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

The fighting in and around Aleppo killed at least 20 people, the watchdog said, adding that the nationwide toll was 122.

Aleppo has been bracing for a major ground offensive after a senior security official said the army had completed a buildup of some 20,000 troops.

Near Homs in central Syria, opposition gunmen attacked an electricity company housing compound, killing 16 people, including Alawites, Christians and Sunnis, the Observatory said

And rebels attacked an oil field in the eastern province of Deir Ezzor, triggering clashes in which four rebels and six soldiers were killed, it added.

Defected ex-premier Riad Hijab was in neighbouring Jordan firming up his plans after his defection to the opposition, which Washington said showed the regime was crumbling.

In that vein, Jordan's King Abdullah II said Assad might make a "worst case scenario" retreat to an Alawite stronghold if he falls from power.

Some experts have also predicted that if Damascus falls to rebels, Assad could take refuge among Alawites in the northeastern mountains of Syria, where opposition forces say he has already been stockpiling weapons.

"I have a feeling that if he can't rule Greater Syria, then maybe an Alawi enclave is Plan B," he said in an interview with US television network CBS.

"That would be, I think for us, the worst case scenario -because that means then the breakup of Greater Syria.

King Abdullah predicted Assad would keep up his brutal crackdown to cling to power because he "believes that he is in the right.

INDONESIA, Jakarta, Java : An Indonesian fire victim smiles while checking a mickey mouse shirt from relief goods at a public cemetery in Jakarta on August 7, 2012, following a massive fire triggered by a faulty electrical connection. A village official said around 300 houses were razed and displaced around 1,700 people, mostly workers and small merchants, as residents were observing Ramadan. (AFP PHOTO)



Health & Living

Scientists unravel 'other' malaria parasite's DNA code

PARIS (AFP) - Scientists said they had unravelled the genetic codes of parasites responsible for the bulk of malaria cases outside Africa, and found they were scarily diversified and may be harder to kill.

In a study published in Nature Genetics, researchers said they had sequenced the genomes of four strains of Plasmodium vivax -- a parasite that infects about 100 million people every year.

Other research had found that 10 to 20 percent of P. vivax cases occur in Africa south of the Sahara -- a region mainly affected by the P. falciparum parasite which causes the most malaria deaths worldwide.

Outside of Africa, P. vivax accounts for half of all malaria cases, mainly in the Middle East, the Western Pacific and Central and South America.

Both parasite species are transferred by Anopheles mosquitos.

P. vivax is more resilient than its deadlier, tropical cousin, and can stay in remission for longer and tolerate cooler climates.

Yet much less is known about P. vivax, and less attention has been paid to unravelling its genetic code than that of P. falciparum.

With their research, a team from India and the United States say they have tripled the number of genome sequences available for P. vivax.

They said they observed an "extremely high genomic di-

versity", suggesting it may be even harder than for P. falciparum to develop a single vaccine targeting several different strains of P. vivax.

In 2010, malaria infected about 216 million people and claimed an estimated 655,000 lives -- mainly in Africa where a child dies of the disease every minute, says the World Health Organisation.

Symptoms include fever, headache, chills and vomiting which if not treated within 24 hours can progress to severe illness and even death.

In a second Nature Genetics report, scientists in Japan and the United States said they had sequenced the genomes of three strains of P. cynomolgi - a sister species to P. vivax and a cause of malaria in Asian Old World monkeys.

Since it is so closely related, information on the DNA code of P. cynomolgi "provides the foundation for further insights into traits... that will enhance prospects for the eventual elimination of vivax-caused malaria and global malaria eradication," they wrote.



Malawi on Monday launched a week-long campaign to test 250,000 people for HIV in what health authorities called a crucial intervention in a country ravaged by AIDS. People will take tests in 810 sites in the southern African nation's 28 districts. The week would give Malawians "a chance to access anti-retroviral therapy if found HIV positive," said deputy health minister Halima Daudi at the launch in tourist town Mangochi at the southern tip of Lake Malawi, a region with high infection rates. One in ten of the 14 million Malawians are infected with HIV, and officials say over 60,000 people are infected every month. The country has so far enrolled 300,000 people for free AIDS drugs, up from 5,000 in 2004.

Dutch nursery paedophile unmasked thanks to stuffed bunny

LYON (AFP) - Interpol on Tuesday urged investigators to share evidence in child pornography cases after Dutch police identified an offender thanks to a stuffed bunny in an image seized in the United States.

The global policing body said the identification of the bunny as Miffy -- a familiar character in a series of Dutch children's books -- helped police to track down a multiple offender and led to nearly 40 arrests worldwide.

The decision by US authorities to add the images to Interpol's database "resulted in global consequences, putting these child rapists behind bars and rescuing the victims from future sexual abuse," Interpol Secretary General Ronald

Noble said in a statement.

The picture of the toy, taken from images showing abuse of an 18-month-old, was spotted by Dutch police only days after it was included in the database.

The toy and other elements from the images were broadcast in a television appeal for information, leading to the arrest and subsequent conviction of Robert Mikelsons, a 28-year-old Dutch citizen.

Mikelsons was sentenced to 18 years in prison in May for sexually assaulting 67 young children while working in nurseries and at babysitting jobs in Amsterdam, as well as for making and distributing child pornography.

Police identified some 1,100 of his Internet contacts,

sparking a crackdown that led to arrests around the world, including in the United States, The Netherlands, Canada, Germany, Poland, Sweden and Britain.

"This is a classic example of what can be accomplished when law enforcement consult international databases," Noble said.

Interpol, based in Lyon, France, manages the International Child Sexual Exploitation database, which includes images related to nearly 2,500 victims of child sexual abuse in 41 countries.

As well as being available to investigators, the database uses image comparison software to find possible connections between victims and locations.



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Cocaine use in Swiss cities 'among highest' in Europe



GENEVA (AFP)- Cocaine use in several Swiss cities is among the highest in Europe, researchers said.

"The amounts of cocaine ... were in the same range as those European cities with the highest consumption," said Christoph Ort, from the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (Eawag).

The findings were based on research carried out into waste water from 15 million people in 19 European cities and published in the journal Science of the Total Environment.

Bern, Geneva, Lucerne and Zurich are on a par with Antwerp and Amsterdam for use of the class A drug, said scientists from Eawag, who compared the Europe-wide data published in the journal with their own research gathered in Switzerland last year.

Approximte cocaine consumption in Swiss cities is equivalent to 1.5 grammes per day per 1,000 people, according to Eawag's estimates.

Consumption of the lifestyle drug can double and even quadruple at the weekend during events such as the Zurich Street Parade and Music Festival, Eawag said.

In total, some 356 kilogrammes of cocaine is used every day in Europe, according to the research, which amounts to approximately 10 to 15 percent of global production of the drug, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Barcelona, London, Milan and Paris registered average use of between 0.5 grammes and 1 gramme of the drug, while Scandinavian cities such as Stockholm, Oslo and Helsinki had the lowest level at 0.15 grammes per 1,000 people.

The research also indicated that the drug is used most in central and western Europe rather than eastern and northern Europe.

In addition to tracing drugs in waste water, Eawag investigates levels of pharmaceuticals and household chemicals to reduce pollution.





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Sci-Tech





MANILA (AFP) - Torrential monsoon rains flooded half of the Philippine capital on Tuesday, killing at least 16 people as rampaging waters swept away homes, destroyed bridges and triggered a landslide in a shanty town. Some residents were marooned on their roofs as parts of Manila were submerged in waters above head height in the worst flooding to hit the chaotic city of 15 million people since hundreds of people died three years ago. Bad weather from seasonal southwest monsoons and Typhoon Saola had already pounded Manila and nearby areas for over a week, soaking the ground and raising dam levels to capacity. Meteorologists said more than half the amount of rain normally seen in August then fell on the city in 24 hours, and warned the deluge would continue overnight and today. Rescue workers on rubber boats and military trucks were deployed in the flooded areas to pick up stranded people. But they could not reach all areas and residents took to social media to appeal for help. In the worst reported incident, nine people from the same family died in a landslide on a mountainous area of northern Manila near the city's reservoir that is populated by thousands of mainly illegal squatters. Tuesday's deaths brought the number of people killed by the monsoon rains across the Philippines over the past week to 69, according to authorities. Another 80,000 people in and around Manila were in schools, gymnasiums and other government buildings set up as evacuation centres, according to the government.

Firefighters beat back Canary Islands blazes

LA GOMERA (AFP) - Spanish firefighters aided by cooler weather made strides Tuesday against Canary Islands wildfires which burned several homes and charred parts of a protected subtropical forest.

The fire on the island of La Gomera has affected over 3,000 hectares (7,400 acres) -- including 350 hectares, or about 10 percent, of the Garajonay national park, a World Heritage site -- since Saturday.

Another fire on neighbouring La Palma island near the town of Mazo was stabilised on Tuesday. That blaze had affected about 1,700 hectares.

The Garajonay national park was added to UN cultural body UNESCO's World Heritage list for its rare subtropical forests which covered the Mediterranean region millions of years ago but have now largely disappeared.

It is home to 450 plant species, including eight found only in the park.

Residents from Igualero, a village inside the park where several houses burned down, were allowed to return to their homes on Tuesday after being evacuated over the weekend.

About 600 people in total were evacuated from their homes on the island of La Gomera but they have now all been allowed to return.

The wildfires have destroyed forest and farmland and killed dozens of sheep, goats and other animals.

Spain has been battling fires in both the Canaries and on the mainland after a winter that saw almost no rainfall, leaving the Spanish landscape its driest in seven decades.

Johannesburg marvels at rare snowfall



JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - Snow flurries blew through South Africa on Tuesday, closing several border crossings with Lesotho and dusting parts of the country in white as residents poured into the streets to watch the snowflakes fall.

"It's amazing, Merry Christmas!" said Roger Gibbs, driving through a leafy suburb in commercial hub Johannesburg where the trees were frosted in white -- the first time in five years.

Snow falls annually in the mountains of South Africa and Lesotho, which even hosts a ski resort. But some high-altitude border posts between the countries received so much snow Tuesday that they were forced to close.

Heavier snowfall in the Western mountains closed the

main highway linking Johannesburg to Durban, Africa's busiest port, for several hours.

The snowfall swept north across Johannesburg, coating southern neighbourhoods in the early morning and then moving toward the Sandton financial district.

"Amazing! Never happened in my life," said Mizundile Eseu, 23, a security guard.

The South African Weather Service said six of the country's nine provinces had snowflakes on Tuesday, with snow expected through the night in Johannesburg.

Authorities urged motorists to take care on the roads, with few drivers used to travelling on snowy streets, but no accidents had been blamed on the snow, according to police.







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51. Travail

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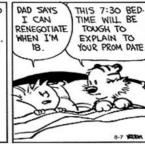
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33







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- 5. Nest eggs: abbr.
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- 14. Tomtit
- 15. Haifa natives
- 17. Zamboni's realm
- 19. Aluminum name
- 22. Imitation: suffix
- 23. Where Prince Charles plays
- whillikers!"
- 30. Declared
- 31. Map abbr.
- 32. Purplish brown
- 33. Sovereign: abbr.
- 34. Where shirts are sometimes lost
- 36. Hive insect
- 38. Colander features
- 39. Where Eddie Felson plays
- 44. Looked at carefully
- 45. National park measure
- 49. Through
- 50. Collars

- fame 16. _ I saw
- Elba" 18. Clumsy fool
- 19. Basilica section
- 20. Rich soil
- 21. Coach's aid
- 24. AARP member's
- income source 25. And so on:
- abbr.
- 26. Kimora Simmons
- 28. Behold, to Brutus
- 29. Shrieks in comics
- 32. Allot fairly
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51

GAME STATIONS

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- state tree
- 41. Medical subj.
- 42. Country singer **McEntire**
- 43. Mormons: abbr.

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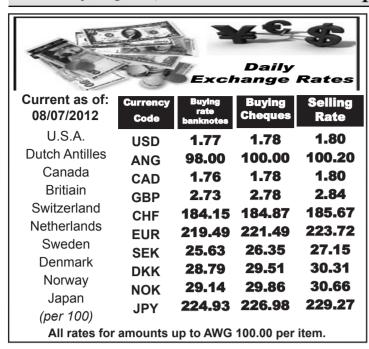
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Sudoku

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Standard Chartered rejects Iran trade claims, shares plunge

LONDON (AFP) - Shares in emerging markets specialist Standard Chartered Bank plunged yesterday after US regulators charged that it hid \$250 billion in deals with Iranian banks in violation of US sanctions.

The charges -- strongly rejected -- are the latest in a series of damaging scandals to hit London's global financial centre where light-touch regulation was hailed as a major benefit of the 1980s 'Big Bang' market deregulation.

Standard Chartered shares crashed 16.76 percent in London trade, having been down a quarter at one point, slashing the bank's value by almost £6.0 billion (\$9.4 billion, 7.6 billion euros). The FTSE finished up 0.56 percent at 5,841.24 points.

Standard Chartered shares

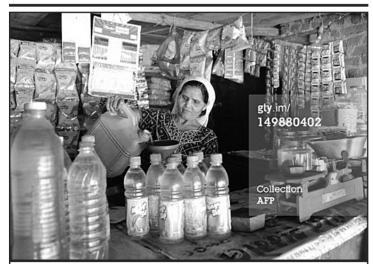
lost nearly 15 percent in Hong Kong trading.

The US Department of Financial Services said Standard Chartered systematically disguised foreign exchange deals with Iran that potentially opened the US banking system to terrorists and criminals.

For its part, Standard Chartered said it "strongly rejects ... the portrayal of facts as set out" by the DFS.

"The group does not believe the order issued by the DFS presents a full and accurate picture of the facts," group secretary Annemarie Durbin said in a statement to the Hong Kong stock exchange.

Standard Chartered was ordered to appear on August 15 to explain the "apparent violations of law" and demonstrate why its licence to operate in New York should not be revoked.



INDIA, Dang: AFP photo shows Indian villager Mangiben filling bottles with petrol to be sold at her stall in Love Chali village near Pampa Sarovar in Dang district some 350 kms from Ahmedabad. With fuel pumps placed within large distances of one another, many small shop-keepers in the area sell petrol in bottles to help stranded motorists get to their destination. India imports around 80 percent of its oil needs and the import bill has risen dramatically because of high global prices and a plunging rupee.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer JOB AMES PLOT EVE NEST RAKE TEA DEAR IVAN RUBYTUESDAY ASS TIE IDOL ACT AWL DIAMONDHEADHI ANT MAD GOOD FAT IVE EMERALDISLE AVER LIEN OLD LEAR IBAE USE ARTY EELS TAN

Half of G. Bissau cashew crop unsold amid market slump

BISSAU (AFP) - Guinea-Bissau has failed to sell half of its cashew nut crop, its main export earner, a blow to the local economy which is still reeling from an April coup, a trade official said yesterday.

"We are in a worrying situation. We have 75,000 tons of cashews which we could not sell, and another 15,000 tons which has not yet been collected," said Secretary of State for Trade Braima Alfa Djalo.

Production this year was estimated at 150,000 tons, down from a high of 200,000 tons in 2011.

"Our traders don't yet have contracts to export their products. Buyers are not falling over each other and some are offering very low prices," he

Only 40,000 tons of cashews left the Bissau port in June, according to the national cashew commission, headed to India which is the main buyer of the country's crop that accounted for 90 percent of all exports last year. After the April overthrow of the government in the chronically unstable nation, farmers struggled to sell their product to traders who could not get access to funds.



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Finance

Oil prices rally, Brent tops \$110

NEW YORK (AFP) - Hopes for US economic growth and concerns over potential tight crude supplies and a hurricane building in the Caribbean continued to push oil prices higher yesterday, analysts said.

New York's benchmark, West Texas Intermediate crude for September delivery, climbed steadily during the session to end up \$1.47 from Monday at \$93.67 a barrel.

It was the highest level for WTI in nearly three months.
In London, Brent North Sea

crude for September jumped \$2.45 to a round \$112 a barrel.

Analysts continued to point to the buoyant US jobs report July released last Friday as a sign that the US economy might be picking up speed, spilling over into demand for fuel products.

"In addition we've seen bigger-than-expected inventory drawdowns in the US recently, implying that demand for oil remains strong," said Fawad Razaqzada, an analyst at trading group GFT Markets.

Thai-Dutch battle erupts over Singapore's Tiger Beer

SINGAPORE (AFP) - A Thai company yesterday raised the stakes in a battle for control of a Singapore brewer about to be taken over by Dutch giant Heineken by offering a higher price for the makers of Tiger Beer.

Kindest Place, a firm owned by a son-in-law of Thai drinks tycoon Charoen Sirivadhanabhakdi, offered Sg\$55 (\$44.34) for the 7.3 percent stake in Asia Pacific Breweries held directly by Singapore conglomerate Fraser and Neave.

This was 10 percent higher than the Sg\$50 per share offered by Heineken for the 40 percent stake held directly and indirectly by F&N, a deal valued at Sg\$5.1 billion (\$4.1 billion).

If successful, Kindest Place's Sg\$1.03 billion offer would raise its APB stake to nearly 16 percent versus Heineken's current 42 percent equity.

F&N's board had recommended acceptance of Heineken's offer before the Thai proposal was announced.



RIO DE JANEIRO: View of fuel prices at a Petrobras station in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on August 7, 2012. Brazil oil company Petrobras announced a loss of USD 650 millions in the second quarter of 2012 --the first in 13 years-- and the company's president Graça Foster insisted on a plan to reduce operational costs. (AFP PHOTO)

Steak lovers unite at Maute Grill in Paseo Herencia Mall





Elegant Dining Room with a view of Palm Beach

Its all about the beef at Maute Grill in Paseo Herencia Mall; 100% USDA Prime Black Angus Beef, to be precise, but prepared in the

Alexander. Maute owners Omar and Alexandra were proudly showing off a selection of their prime cuts and alternative dishes for media; a tempting array of succulent beef cuts as well as unique dishes such as rabbit, rack of lamb, salmon, fresh mussels and crab claws and veal chops, slow cooked and falling off

the bone.

Wood Grilled Rib Eye Their extremely diverse menu can provide some adventures in eating, as well as 28oz of prime Porterhouse or T-bone steak for those with exceptionally hearty appetites and a dedication to red meat. Even the rib eye and filet mignon are exceptionally large, and a number of cuts can be ordered for two.

The restaurant provides a very charming ambiance, with the gentle strains of typical Venezuelan music complimenting the low key atmosphere. Beginning the evening with a glass of their fruity house special sangria by Master Mixologist Ivan is a must.

Formally a dinner only spot, Maute Grill has just announced a tempting menu to encourage those looking for a perfect spot for a power lunch. A continually rotating menu provides specialty of the House typical Venezuelan new choices each month. Since the beginning

of August the offering is Soup or Caesar Salad, a choice of Sirloin Steak, Coq au Vin or fresh grouper for a main course and dessert for only

\$28.95, served from noon until 3:00 p.m. daily. For a real taste treat, make sure to swath your steak with their Guasacaca Sauce, a zesty blend of parsley, garlic and avocado, the Venezuelan version of Chi-michurri, which is the required way to compliment your meat Latin style; you have it no other once you have tried it!

The restaurant has a charming open air bar, allowing patrons to relax and observe the busy mall life, or there is the option of an air-condi-

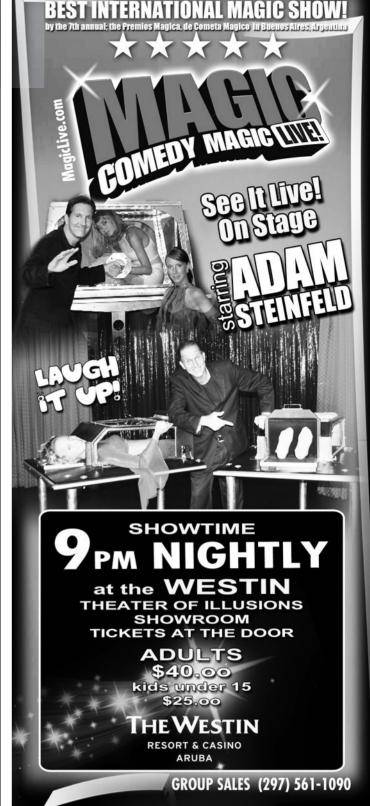
tioned dining room. Those dining at the outdoor terrace have the pleasure of watching their steak grilled

of watching their steak grilled on an open wood fire at their table, offering the option of specifying when it is done enough. This is very much the Venezuelan way, and the side dishes and garnishes are aimed at providing that true taste of Latin cooking here in Aruba. For reservations call 586-1120.

Mussels and Stone Crab platter

Stewed Rabitt

platter



Wednesday, August 8, 2012



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - US actress Natalie Portman has married French dancer Benjamin Millepied, her partner of two years and the father of her 14-month-old son. The traditional Jewish wedding was held Saturday evening in the Big Sur coastal resort, some 390 kilometers (240 miles) northwest of Los Angeles. Photos leaked on microblogging site Twitter showed a grinning Portman in a tea-length, A-line dress with a sheer overlay that covered her arms and shoulders, and a long veil, in keeping with Jewish custom. The couple, who live in New York, met in 2009 while filming "Black Swan," the ballet thriller for which Portman won an Academy Award. Millepied choreographed the dance scenes and acted in the film.

DreamWorks plans \$3.2 bn China tourist attraction



SHANGAI (AFP) - Dream-Works Animation on Tuesday said it plans to build a \$3.2 billion "entertainment zone" in Shanghai, as the US film giant seeks to bolster its presence in the booming Chinese market.

The studio's newly-formed China joint venture, Oriental DreamWorks, is set to open the tourism attraction in 2016, the creator of megahits like "Shrek" and "Kung Fu Panda" said in a statement.

The project -- called the Dream Center -- will comprise entertainment facilities, animation exhibitions and comdevelopments mercial including hotels and shopping areas in Shanghai's Xuhui district, it said.

The announcement comes after US entertainment giant Disney last year broke ground on a planned \$3.7 billion theme park in Shanghai, scheduled to open in 2015.

However, one of the DreamWorks' Chinese partners denied being in competition with Disney, describing the project not as a theme park, but as an "entertainment zone".

DreamWorks in February announced plans for a \$330 million joint venture company with three Chinese partners --China Media Capital, Shanghai Media Group and Shanghai Alliance Investment -- to cooperate on film productions.

Oriental Dreamworks will make the next "Kung Fu Panda" movie -- the third instalment in the hugely popular series -- in China as a co-production for release in 2016, the statement said.

It plans to release up to three major films a year, with its first feature-length animated film scheduled for global release in 2017, it said.

The huge commitment in local production comes even though Beijing maintains strict quotas which limit the number of foreign movies allowed into

Imports of foreign films into China on a revenue-sharing basis are currently limited to just 34 annually, though that was raised from 20 earlier this

China's box office grew an annual 35 percent to \$2.0 billion in 2011, making it the seclargest international market behind Japan, according to the Motion Picture Association of America.

Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready in-

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and fami-lies, famed hotelier Ed Ma-lone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline pick-up a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spaparents or a few couples.

and drop-off; they even boast high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are cious, offering privacy for available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange



Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV,

rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba. com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.

Fifty Shades': global hit

(AFP) - It's a literary phenomenon: with nearly 40 million copies sold, "Fifty Shades of Grey", an erotic romance up with spiced sadomasochism is well on its way to breaking all the records.

What sets the book apart is that it is written for women by a woman -- British author EL James, a previously unknown TV executive. Only the sevenvolume Harry Potter series can rival that sort of success.

EL James -- a 48-year-old mother of two whose real name is Erika Leonard -- has invented a new genre dubbed "mommy porn", a hybrid of cheesy romance and erotic fic-

James, who says she was inspired by the teenage vampire film "Twilight", started by publishing extracts on a fansite for the American teenagers' series before releasing an e-book in May 2011. It was an instant hit, with hundreds of thousands of downloads.

Since its release in paper form it has been a huge hit --31 million copies have been sold in English, and 20 million copies in the United States where some bookshops initially refused to sell it because of its racy content.

Five million copies have already been translated into languages other than English.

But most readers aren't expecting a masterpiece and are just pleased to be able to buy such a book in the high street, rather than in the darkened corners of a sex shop.

As for EL James, she is already working on her next project at her west London home, but it remains a closely guarded secret.



Summer Olympics: July 27 - August 12



US NBA stars, rivalries spice quarter-finals

7 Cameroon athletes 'defect' at London **Olympics**

YAOUNDE (AFP) - Seven athletes from Cameroon have "defected" in London where some were participating in the 2012 Olympics, Cameroon media reported Tuesday, citing an official.

The disappearance of the seven athletes was reported on the website of the state daily Cameroon Tribune.

According to the head of Cameroon's Olympics delegation, David Ojong, '28 (delegation members) returned to Cameroon, 24 are still in the (Olympic) village and seven have defected," the newspaper reported him telling the country's sports minister at a meeting on Sunday.

On Tuesday the sports ministry declined to comment on the situation and no explanation was given for the defections.

The missing athletes are five boxers, one swimmer and one woman football (soccer) player, the Cameroon Tribune said.

Meanwhile a representative of the Cameroon Football Federation said the first athlete to disappear on July 2 was "a woman football player who was at the Olympic village but was not one of the 18 players chosen to take part in the Olympic games."

The missing player from Cameroon's national football team is Drusille Ngako, said the representative, who requested anonymity.

She was not chosen as a finalist to participate in the games and it is not known why she went with the national women's football team to London, the source added.

Since the beginning of the 2012 Games in London, Cameroon has not won any medals. Two of its athletes remain in competition.



LONDON (AFP) - Three intense match-ups and the US NBA Olympic Dream Team's first win-or-go-home game in their quest for gold in London promise a passionate set of men's basketball quarter-finals today.

South American competitors Brazil and Argentina, European border rivals Spain and France and former Soviet states Russia and Lithuania all meet in today's quarter-finals, as do Australia and the unbeaten US NBA stars.

American squads are 13-0 against the Aussies in world and Olympic play but that brings little comfort to the United States after they needed NBA guard Patrick Mills's three-pointer at the buzzer to drop Russia from the undefeated ranks in group

Even with an Olympic record 156-point tally in one victory, the multi-millionaire Americans worry about what can derail their bid for backto-back Olympic gold.

Dave Blatt, an American who has coached the Russian team for seven years, has developed such a core group and will test it against a Lithuania squad that played for bronze in the past two Olympics but who have been without a medal since 2000.

Twenty years after the break-up of the Soviet Union, the latest products from a once-unified talent pool will meet in a grudge match featuring NBA players including Lithuania captain Linas Kleiza and Russian big man Andrei Kirilenko.

Spain defeated France 98-85 in last year's European championship final but has been inconsistent at the Olympics, NBA Los Angeles Lakers big man Pau Gasol unable to spark sufficient play down the stretch.

"I'm worried because we have not found our best game yet," Gasol said. "I'm concerned because we've already played a lot of matches and we have not played to the best of our ability. "The way we are playing right now, anyone can beat us.'

French standout Mickael Gelabale notes the Spaniards have years of working together.

"To stop them, we have to play our best basketball, tough defence," he said.

No rivalry dominates South America like Brazil-Argentina and the familiar foes meet once more, with someone's medal dreams destined to die.

"We know Argentina very well and they know us," Brazil's Tiago Splitter said. "It's going to be a very close game."

Brazil lead the overall rivalry with Argentina 37-32 but their only prior Olympic meeting came in 1952, when Argentina won 72-56.

Brazil coach Ruben Magnano knows better than most what is at stake, being from Argentina himself.

"The thing that worries me more about Argentina is the hunger for glory," Magnano said. They are a winning team and I still see that on their team. I have the feeling that my team also have that same hunger for glory."

Brazil on course for Olympic



LONDON (AFP) - Brazil edged closer to their dream of volvement in the tournament. an Olympic football title yesterday easing into a final showdown with Mexico after a comfortable 3-0 victory over South Korea.

The Brazilians, bronze medallists in Beijing four years ago, booked their place in Saturday's showpiece match at Wembley after two goals from Leandro and Romulo ended the South Koreans in-

World Cup-winners on five occasions they may be, but Brazil have never won an Olympic gold medal, an anomaly that they are now strongly favoured to consign to the history books this weekend.

South Korea, who had won through to the last four with a nail-biting penalty shoot-out win over Great Britain last Saturday, never threatened the South Americans in an open game at Old Trafford.

The opening goal came for Brazil on 38 minutes from Vasco Da Gama defender Romulo after South Korea's Ki Sung-Yueng was dispossessed in midfield.

Oscar surged forward deep into South Korean territory before feeding Romulo whose shot at the near post slipped under goalkeeper Lee Bum-Young.

Brazil all but made the game safe 12 minutes into the second half with a cleverly worked goal.

Marcelo suddenly quickened Brazil's tempo and found Neymar inside the area, cutting the ball back to Leandro who drilled his low shot beyond Lee.

Leandro then bagged his second of the night seven minutes later, deftly toe-poking his effort into the bottom corner to make it 3-0.





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Hoy wins record sixth gold



LONDON (AFP) - Sir Chris Hoy crowned his Olympic career with a record sixth gold medal yesterday to become the decorated most British Olympian in history after powering to victory in the keirin.

Germany's Maximilian Levy finished second to take the silver with New Zealand's

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Presse (AFP)

Simon Van Velthooven and Dutchman Teun Mulder sharing the bronze after a long wait for a photo finish decision.

Hoy won three Olympic gold medals in the sprint, keirin and team sprint four years ago to add to his kilometre time trial crown from Athens in 2004.

And despite being unable to defend his sprint title after

being ousted by Jason Kenny for Britain's sole spot in the event, Hoy struck gold twice in his two London events of the team sprint and keirin.

The 36-year-old Scot's sixth gold means that on the count of gold medals alone, he overtakes Sir Steve Redgrave's tally of five gold medals, all of which were won in consecutive Games.

"I'm in shock, you try and compose yourself but it's surreal. I wanted to win gold in front of my home crowd. I saw everyone stepping up to the plate and thankfully it worked out for me too," said Hoy.

Asked if he would compete at the Rio Games, Hoy said his preference would be to end his career at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.



WEYMOUTH (AFP)-: Netherlands's Dorian Van Rijsselberge (C) celebrates his gold medal with silver medallist Britain's Nick Dempsey (L) and Poland's Przemyslaw Miarczynski (R) on the podium after the men's RS:X sailing class at the London 2012 Olympic Games, in Weymouth on August 7, 2012

LONDON (AFP) - The Netherlands defeated South Korea 4-2 yesterday to top their Olympic Games hockey pool with a fifth successive win which also allowed defending champions Germany to enter the semi-finals. World champions Australia also advanced to the last four by hammering Pakistan 7-0 to move to the top of Pool A Great Britain went through to the semi-finals for the first time since 1988 when they were gold medal winners, with a 1-1 draw against Spain, who were runners-up four years ago. In the semi-finals, the Dutch will face Britain while Australia meet Germany. Netherlands, assured of a semi-final spot before Tuesday's game, spiked a late rally from Asia Cup holders South Korea to complete an all-win record in the preliminary round-robin league. The Dutch emulated their women's team, which on Monday stormed into the semi-finals by winning all five matches. Netherlands finished with 15 points, while the defeat shattered South Korea's hopes of staying in contention. The Koreans finished on six points from five matches.



LONDON (AFP) - From L: The Netherlands' Anky van Grunsven, Edward Gal and Adelinde Cornelissen celebrate with their bronze medal on the podium of the team **Dressage Grand Prix event of the 2012 London Olympics** at the Equestrian venue in Greenwich Park, London, August 7, 2012







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Mexico into men's football final for first time



Mexico's forward Oribe Peralta (C) celebrates with teammates after scoring against Japan

(AFP) - Mexico advanced to the final of the men's Olympic football tournament for the first time in their history on Tuesday after coming from behind to defeat Asian giants Japan 3-1.

Japan, who had helped eliminate highly rated Spain in the first round, appeared set to emulate their female counterparts by reaching the final at Wembley after Yuki Otsu fired them into a 12th-minute lead.

But Mexico hauled themselves back into the contest after 28 minutes when Marco Fabian equalised.

Oribe Peralta then scored midway through the second half to put Mexico into their first Olympic football final, where they will face either South Korea or favourites Brazil for the gold medal.

In the final minute Peralta then released Javier Cortes down the right with a clever backheel and the substitute held off the defence before squeezing his shot beneath Shuichi Gonda in the Japanese

High-flying Zonderland soars to high bar gold

LONDON (AFP) - Epke Zonderland of the Netherlands produced a spectacular horizontal high bar routine to claim Olympic gold earn a standing ovation at the North Greenwich Arena yesterday.

Zonderland's display gave him a huge score of 16.533, to leave Germany's Fabian Hambuchen with the silver medal and defending champion Zou Kai of China with bronze.

The Dutchman's routine contained a sequence of three

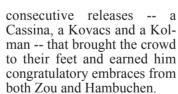




China's Zhang Chenglong set the early pace with a score of 16.266, less than two hours after he came off the apparatus in the parallel bars final.

Zou was bidding to retain his title from Beijing four years ago and claim his sixth Olympic gold medal, and he replaced Zhang at the top of the scoreboard with a routine that gave him a mark of 16.366.

Hambuchen, who took bronze in Beijing, went even



It made him the Nether-

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Former NBA All-Star Dan Roundfield was vacationing with his family in Aruba when he drowned on Monday. Aruba police spokesman John Larmonie says a search team found Dan Roundfield's body underwater about 90 minutes after he was swept away by strong currents while swimming beyond a protected reef area, trapped by rocks. Officials said Roundfield's wife was still on the island Tuesday after being treated for shock. The 59-year-old Roundfield spent 11 seasons in the NBA after being selected with the 28th pick overall by Cleveland in the 1975 draft. The Detroit native played for the Indiana Pacers (1976-78), Atlanta Hawks (1978-84), Detroit Pistons (1984-85) and Washington Bullets (1985-87). The Central Michigan product was named to three NBA All-Star teams. He is survived by his wife Bernadette, his sons Christopher and Corey and their grandchildren. May He Rest in Peace.



lands' first Olympic gymnastics gold medallist since the Dutch women's team prevailed in the team event on home soil in 1928.

"It's unique to be in an Olympic final if you're a Dutch gymnast, but winning the gold is bizarre," said Zonderland. "I worked so long to achieve a result like this. This is amazing."

A high-quality final saw

better, delighting the arena with a high-octane routine and punching the air with his fist after a perfect dismount.

The German's score of 16.400 looked good enough for gold, but 26-year-old Zonderland outstripped all of his rivals with a gravity-defying display of agility that ended his country's 84-year wait for Olympic gymnastics gold.